

Wirilda

Acacia provincialis

- This small tree has a slender and erect habit and can grow to a height of 10 metres.
- The smaller branches are usually pendulous and reddish-brown in colour.
- Leaves are long and narrow, usually straight but sometimes with a slight curve. They are grey-green in colour.
- Flowering occurs throughout the year but most heavily between September and January. The flowers are golden yellow and spherical in shape.
- Wirilda can be very similar to sweet wattle (*Acacia suaveolens*) which is native to Tasmania. The flower buds of sweet wattle are more cylindrical in shape and enclosed by overlapping scales before opening. This is the most reliable way to distinguish it from wirilda.

large plant



flowers

Wirilda flower buds



Environmental Weed

METHODS OF CONTROL

By hand:

Seedlings and small plants can be hand pulled in moist or sandy soil. Take care as plants break off easily, and remaining roots left in the soil may grow new stems. Removed plants can be left on site to break down.

Cut and paint: Cut stems as low to the ground as possible and apply herbicide to the exposed stump within 15 seconds.

Stem injection:

This method is for woody weeds with stems greater than 10 cm in diameter at the base. Drill holes about 5cm apart around each stem, angled downwards and sideways into the sapwood just under the bark. Immediately inject herbicide in each hole using a squirt bottle or syringe. Only plants that can be safely left to die and rot should be treated this way. If the plant needs to be felled, allow it to die completely before felling.

Foliar spraying:

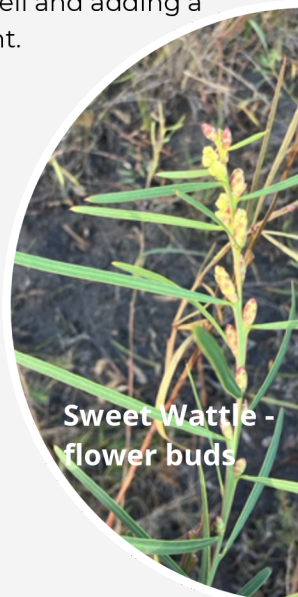
Foliar spraying is when you directly spray the leaves of a plant. This method can be used to control wirilda, but it is generally limited to smaller plants and regrowth. The most effective herbicide products are those containing metsulfuron-methyl (eg. Associate). Herbicides might not penetrate the leaves of wirilda very well and adding a wetting agent, such as Pulse Penetrant, helps ensure that spraying is effective and kills the plant.

Wirilda can easily be confused with some native wattles. Care should be taken to correctly identify wirilda before any control methods are used. If you are unsure, please do not hesitate to contact the Natural Areas and Biodiversity team to confirm.

IMPACTS

Wirilda is native to south-eastern Australia, but not Tasmania. It has been planted in many gardens throughout Kingborough, from which it has then spread and invaded a wide range of landscapes. Wirilda looks very similar to local native wattle species, blending into the Tasmanian environment and hiding the extent of the problem.

Wirilda is more likely to establish where soils have been disturbed, however it is also known to invade bushland reserves and other natural areas. In these environments, it has the ability to out-compete and replace our native species.



Sweet Wattle - flower buds